

Brigadier General Russell Crane

Assistant Adjutant General and Joint Task Force Commander

West Virginia National Guard



Brigadier General Russell Crane assumed duties as Assistant Adjutant General and Joint Task Force Commander, West Virginia National Guard, on 1 July 2013 after serving as Land Component Commander, WVARNG.

BG Crane graduated from Marshall University and was commissioned from the Reserve Officer Training Corps as an Infantry Officer in 1987. His first duty assignment was in 2nd Battalion, 19 Special Forces Group (Airborne) from 1987 until 2003. He served as the Battalion Civil Affairs Officer, Operational Detachment Alpha Executive Officer, B Company executive Officer deployed to Haiti, followed by Operational Detachment Alpha Commander of the Special Operations Combat Dive team. He served as the Detachment 1

Company Commander followed by C Company Commander deployed to Afghanistan.

In January 2003, BG Crane was assigned to Joint Forces Headquarters, WVNG and directed to assist with the development and implementation of a homeland defense joint task force (JTF-HLD). While assigned in JTF-HLD BG Crane served as a terrorists operations specialist on a critical infrastructure protection team, Critical infrastructure protection team leader, JTF-HLD Executive Officer, followed by JTF-HLD Commander.

In September 2007, BG Crane was assigned as Commander, Special Operations Detachment-Europe (SOD-E) supporting Special Operations Command Europe. In 2011 BG Crane deployed the SOD-E to the Horn of Africa where he was assigned to Special Operations Command Africa as the Commander, Special Operations Command and Control Element- Horn of Africa and the Commander of the AFRICOM Counter Lord's Resistance Army Control Element (Uganda).

His awards and decorations include; Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (2 OLC), Joint Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (1 OLC), Army Achievement Medal (2 OLC), Special Forces Tab, Combat Infantry Badge, Military Freefall Jumpmaster Badge, Static Line Jumpmaster Badge, Special Operations Dive Badge, German Parachutist Badge, Portuguese Parachutist Badge, Portuguese Dive Badge, Russian Parachutists Badge, and the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge (Gold). BG Crane is a graduate of the Army War College and holds a masters degree from Mountain State University in Strategic Leadership and a Masters Degree from the Army War College in Strategic Studies.